



News from Galway City Council
Winter '08



Galway City Achieves Spectacular Result in Recent IBAL League

Galway city has shown an immense improvement in the latest round of the Irish Business Against Litter league. Since the first round in 2008, Galway City has moved up from 34th position as 'moderately littered' to 2nd place in this round, a spectacular result, the highest position a city has achieved to date. The survey of 55 towns and cities around Ireland, carried out by An Taisce, revealed significant improvements in litter levels.

An Taisce commented on the Galway city as follows:

"A great result – can Galway be the outright winner in 2008? Galway City has scored exceptionally well with nineteen out of twenty-three sites surveyed getting the top litter grade. The remaining four sites had only moderate levels of litter. It has come along enormously compared to a few years ago – clearly big efforts have been made. A couple of sites deserve a special mention: 1. Dominic Road Car Park: has seen a marked improvement on the previous IBAL Anti-Litter Survey. 2. The Prom: far less dog fouling than earlier litter surveys. The residential areas of Ros na Sí, Castlebawn Heights, Tirellan Heights and Illaunree Drive. Eyre Street scored particularly well considering the high level of activity. The majority of the approach routes in Galway got the top litter grade – Oranmore Approach, Oranmore Coast Road, Headford Approach and Menlo Approach."

Mr Joe MacGrath, City Manager said

"This impressive result in the Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) league sees Galway City scoring the highest position a city has achieved to date and this acts as a testament



to the consistent work which has gone into keeping the city and its approach roads litter free"

Mr Tom Hernon, Director of Services with Galway City Council called for the bigger institutions in the city to go a step further and push Galway City to the top of the league

"I am urging the bigger institutions in the city like schools and 3rd level institutions, hospitals and major retail parks to go a step further and push us to the top of the litter free table, it is important to get the cooperation of these large institutions in the city if we are to push to the top of the league"

Further Information Galway City Council, Environment Section 091 536595



Galway City Water Supply

In late September 2008 following sampling of water supplies in Galway City by HSE West, elevated levels of lead were detected in a number of samples.

Lead can be present in plumbing and water pipes in older buildings built prior to the 1970's and can get into drinking water. The water leaving the Terryland treatment works does not contain lead and is of a very high quality. The issue with lead only occurs as a result of the water becoming in contact with lead pipes with in the distribution system or indeed within your own home. Specific health advice has been given to householders in the affected areas and Galway City Council is now progressing with the following solutions.

Galway City Council is now concentrating on implementing the following action programme which has been agreed with the Health Service Executive and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Galway City has engaged the advice of an internationally recognised expert from the UK in progressing the short and medium term solutions. The HSE West and Galway City Council with the advice of the EPA have been working closely together and have agreed the following action programme:

- Short term (4-6 weeks): work has started to adjust the pH of the water to reduce the interaction between the water and the lead pipes. This is a method of treatment that is internationally recognised and is common in the North of Ireland, UK and the USA.

The pH value of water determines if the water is acidic or a base. A pH of below 7 indicates acidity and a figure above 7 indicates a base. In water treatment terms, water is said to be corrosive if it attacks any of the metals or materials commonly used in the distribution system. The extent to which corrosion occurs in a water supply depends on the acidity of the treated water conveyed within the distribution pipe system.

- Medium term (6-9 months): Galway City Council has brought in experts to advise on international best practice to further reduce the interaction between the water and lead pipes, until the pipes can be replaced.

The object of post treatment pH correction is to add a chemical in the correct amount to produce a very thin protective coating of calcium carbonate scale on otherwise corrodible surfaces in contact with the treated water. The maintenance of an elevated pH level should alleviate the corrosiveness of the treated water leaving the Terryland Plant and mitigate the water's tendency to leech lead from lead service pipe work within the network as a first step in reducing lead residual levels at consumers taps which have been supplied through lead service connections in pre-1970's properties.

- Long term (2 years): replacement of lead pipe distribution network in the Old Mervue area.

How Do I Know If There Are Lead Pipes In My Home?

If your home has been modernised since 1970 and all of its pipework replaced from the water company's stop valve outside your home to the kitchen tap, there should be no lead pipe on your property.

If your home was built:

- before 1970 it may have lead pipes after 1970 it is unlikely to have lead pipes
- If you are unsure, you can make a simple check:

Inside your home -

Look in or behind the cupboards in your kitchen. You may also need to look in other places, e.g. the cupboard under the stairs. Find the pipe leading to the kitchen tap. Check if it is lead along as much of its length as possible. Unpainted lead pipes are dull grey. They are also soft. If you scrape the surface gently with a knife, you will see the shiny, silver-coloured metal beneath.

Outside your home -

Open the flap of the stop valve outside your property. Examine the pipe leading from the stop valve to the property. If you can, scrape its surface gently with a knife. It may not be possible to do this in some cases as access may be difficult.

Other pipe materials in common use are:

copper - bright, hard and dull brown
iron - dark, very hard and may be rusty
plastic - may be grey, black or blue.

If in doubt, ask your local authority for advice.

For Further Information: Galway City Council, Transport & Infrastructure Department 091 536457

Contact Details

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| Reception Tel: 091 - 536400 Fax: 091 - 567493 Email: enquiries@galwaycity.ie Web: www.galwaycity.ie | Community Wardens Tel: 091 536544 | Galway Energy Agency Tel: 091 536496 | Housing Maintenance Tel: 091 536591 |
| Community & Enterprise Tel: 091 536573 | Service Charges Tel: 091 536593 | Finance Tel: 091 536592 | Rates Tel: 091 536593 |
| Roads & Water Services Tel: 091 536589 | Corporate Services Tel: 091 536597 | Parks & Culture Tel: 091 536548 | Human Resources Tel: 091 536596 |
| | Traffic Fines Tel: 091 536594 | Housing Tel: 091 536590 | Register of Electors Tel: 091 536597 |
| | Environment Tel: 091 536595 | Planning Tel: 091 536599 | Mayors Secretary Tel: 091 536446 |



Who Is Responsible For The Pipework?

The part of the service pipe which links the water main in the street to the stop valve outside your property belongs to Galway City Council.

The part of the service pipe leading from the stop valve outside your property to the point where it enters your home is your responsibility if you are the owner, otherwise it is your landlord's.

All the plumbing inside your home to the kitchen tap is your responsibility or your landlord's.

How Can I Find Out If There Is Lead In My Drinking Water?

If your home has lead pipes, your drinking water may sometimes contain high levels of lead. Galway City Council will tell you how likely this is. It regularly takes samples of the water supplied to individual properties in your area and tests them for lead.

What Can I Do To Reduce Lead Levels?

If lead pipes are causing high lead levels in your drinking water, you can take some simple short-term precautions:

Do not drink water that has been standing in the pipes for long

periods, for example, overnight, or if no one has been in for several hours.

In these circumstances, draw off a washing-up sinkful of water from the kitchen tap to clear the water which has been standing in the pipes. This need not be wasted but can be used on the garden or for something other than drinking or cooking. If the length of lead pipes exceeds 40 metres, more than a bowlful of water will need to be drawn off. You can then use the water from the kitchen tap as usual.

If you have any lead pipe work between the stop valve outside your home and your kitchen tap, the best solution is to replace it with copper or plastic pipe work.

Make sure that removing lead water pipes does not reduce electrical safety by removing earthing. Ask your electricity supplier if in doubt.

Other Useful Hints

Whether or not there is lead plumbing in your home:

- for drinking and cooking, always use the water from the cold water tap in the kitchen.
- avoid drinking water from bathroom taps.

Where can I get further advice?

From Galway City Council (091 536400)

From HSE West

From a qualified plumber

Medium-Term Upgrade of New Terryland

The upgrade of New Terryland will increase the production capacity from 33,000m³ to 55,000m³ per day through the introduction of lamella plate/tube settler technology.

Lamella plates or tube settler technology increases the settling efficiency of water and therefore the sedimentation process is completed more rapidly. This in turn allows an increase in the quantity of water that is treated and produced at the Terryland Plant.

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government approved the Terryland upgrade in Feb 2008. The tendering process is now complete and substantial completion of the project is on course to be achieved by May '09.

Long-Term Upgrade of New Terryland

The long-term strategy for the Terryland upgrade, which involves a twenty-year time horizon, is substantially complete. However, this will also require the appointment of a Consulting Engineer who will prepare a preliminary report on Galway City and its Environs water requirements over the next twenty (20) years. This report will require approval from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and subject to the Department of the Environment's approval it is expected that a Consulting Engineer will be appointed to prepare the Preliminary Report by January '09



Mr. Tom Hernon, Director of Services, Galway City Council and Dr. Sharon McHugh, Environment Education Officer, Galway City Council receiving an award in recognition of substantial achievements in the category of Local Authority of the Year in the recent REPAK Recycling Awards 2008. Also present are Bill Dolan, Repak Collections Team Manager (far left) and Bob Rowatt (far right).

European Mobility Week 2008 in Galway

From 16 to 22 September 2008, European cities and towns participated to the most widespread event on sustainable mobility, the European Mobility Week 2008.

A full week of events dedicated to sustainable mobility were organised in more than 2000 cities and towns throughout Europe to highlight the necessity for changes in behaviour in relation to mobility and in particular the use of the private car. The European Mobility Week started in 2002 and aims at encouraging citizens to change their travel behaviour and shift to more sustainable modes of transport. The week offered an opportunity for all to think about how you travel and what impact that has on your health, your finances and the Environment.

Further Information Galway City Council, Galway Transportation Unit 091 536551

From Left: Martina Moloney Galway County Manager, Cllr. Peter Feeney Mayor of County Galway, Cllr. Pdraig Conneely Mayor of Galway City, Joe MacGrath Galway City Manager with children Barna National School at the joint launch of European Mobility Week in Galway last week.



Galway City Council's Planning Department receives citation in Excellence in Local Government Awards 2008



Galway City Council's Planning Department was recently short-listed in the Planning Service Category of the prestigious Chamber Ireland's 5th Annual Excellence in Local Government Awards 2008, which are organised in association with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government

Chambers Ireland established these awards to acknowledge and encourage best practice and constructive initiatives by local authorities and also to enhance the positive relationships that already exist between chambers, businesses and their respective local authorities.

Galway City Council received a citation commending the Planning Department, which validates planning applications within 24 hours.

Photo: Staff from Galway City Council's Planning Department

Pictured from left: Caroline Ejoh, Marilyn Noone, Helena Martyn, Simone Sherlock Noreen O Dowd, Tom Connell Director of Services and Olivia Murphy seated.

Insert: Chamber Ireland's Annual Excellence in Local Government Awards - Citation commending the Planning Department, which validates planning applications within 24 hours.



For Further Information, Galway City Council planning Department 091 536507



From Left: Mayor Cllr. Pádraig Conneely, Declan Breen Artist, Megs Morley Public Arts Co-ordinator Galway City Council & James Harrold Arts officer Galway City Council at the launch of the 'Blue Dogs' Sculpture in the Sean Bhaile Housing estate, Doughiska

Galway City Council launches new 'Per Cent for Art' Sculpture in Doughiska

Galway City Council's new Per Cent for Art Commission for Doughiska "Blue Dogs" by Wexford artist Declan Breen was officially launched by Mayor of Galway, Cllr. Pádraig Conneely on the green of the Sean Bhaile Housing estate, Doughiska recently.

This new piece of public sculpture displays the commitment of Galway City Council in commissioning new art works through the Per Cent for Art Scheme. Megs Morley, Public Arts Co-ordinator for Galway City Council says:

"The Per Cent for Art Scheme provides an exciting opportunity for Galway City Council to

commission new art works specifically for Galway and for the Galway public to experience a diverse range of contemporary art in the public realm. Over the next year Galway can look forward to many more exciting new commissioning strands of which 'Blue Dogs' by Declan Breen is an excellent example."

The artist Declan Breen speaks of his work, *"The sculpture forms an evenly spaced processional line marking the entrance to the housing estate. It is often customary to mark the transition from one type of space to another with a symbolic object. The housing estate is a private domestic space and the dog*

is a symbol of that domesticity, both as pet and guardian. They watch all who come and go, but pass no judgement"

To celebrate the occasion there was music by the successful Scandinavian quartet 'Café Minor' and colourful entertainment for children of all ages by the Galway Circus project. Food and light refreshments were also served.

For more information please contact: Megs Morley, Public Arts Co-ordinator, Galway City Council 091 536588 or email megs.morley@galwaycity.ie

Galway City Boundaries

The population of Galway City increased from 57,241 in 1996 to 72,414 in 2006 (+26.51%). Increases in population ahead of the city average occurred in two of the three local electoral areas; the population of Galway No. 1 increased from 26,197 to 35,343 (+34.92%) during the ten-year period, while the population of Galway No. 3 increased from 15,579 to 22,023 (+41.37%) during the same period. In contrast to these increases, the population in Galway No. 2 electoral area decreased from 15,465 in 1996 to 15,048 in 2006 (-2.70%).

The Electoral Area Boundary Committee Report 2008 sets out some recommendations to change the electoral areas to reflect the changes in population. These changes are based on a recommended figure of population of 9,735 per City Councillor. The map shows the changes to the electoral wards in Galway City.

For Further Information: Register of Electors, Corporate Services 091 536453



Upgrading of Doughiska Road Underway

Significant upgrading of the Doughiska Road, which links communities in this developing area of Galway City with the Dublin Road and the Dual Carriageway, is currently underway by Galway City Council's Transportation Unit.



On completion, this upgrading initiative will provide new bus lay bys at all existing bus stops, numerous controlled and uncontrolled crossings, surfacing works, a taxi rank located opposite Fearann Rí and drainage for surface water. In addition, new street lighting will be installed and landscaping works will serve to visually enhance the Doughiska Road, which stretches for 1.7km. In terms of timeframe the main work is scheduled for completion by the end of January 2009 with the landscaping works to be completed shortly thereafter.

Traffic Management Information

Galway City Council wishes to highlight the following points to users of this road:

- Works will take place daily from 08.00 to 19.00.
- During construction, it is intended to maintain access for residents and keep the Doughiska Road open to traffic. Two-lane traffic will be maintained where possible and disruption will be kept to a minimum with stop/go boards and traffic lights employed on an occasional basis.
- Contractors will work in 400m sections and safety barriers/fencing will be erected as appropriate.
- Galway City Council also advises motorists who currently use the Doughiska Road as a



through route to use the Eastern Approach Road as an alternative.

Community Information Meeting

To inform residents of the pending upgrading works, Galway City Council attended an information meeting in the Racing Lodge Hotel, which attracted strong attendance from the Doughiska community. Issues raised at this meeting included traffic difficulties between the Doughiska and Monivea Roads and difficulties with deliveries to the Briar Hill Shopping Centre.

During the meeting, Galway City Council

agreed to explore the possibility of conducting additional improvement works between the Doughiska and Monivea Roads. In addition, Galway City Council agreed to monitor deliveries to the Briar Hill Shopping Centre to determine if improved arrangements could be put in place. Galway City Council also agreed to consult with the Doughiska Residents Association regarding the outline landscape scheme for the Doughiska Road, in order

to get feedback on the proposals, prior to implementation.

Overall, it was clear from the meeting that the current scheme was well received with residents expressing their delight that the bulk of the work would be completed by the end of the current year.

For further information please contact:

Cathy Joyce

Galway Transportation Unit

Galway City Council

Tel: (091) 536551

Email: cathy.joyce@galwaycity.ie



New Bus Lane for the Dublin Road

Working to Reduce Traffic Congestion in the Long Run

In order to address traffic congestion in Galway City, Galway City Council will be rolling out a number of infrastructural works in the City. With this in mind, a new outbound bus lane is being developed along the Dublin Road, which on completion will significantly reduce journey times along this route.

Galway City Council and the Galway Transportation Unit acknowledges that traffic disruption will be unavoidable due to the nature of the works and the limited works area available and wishes to apologise to people travelling this route for the inconvenience caused while works are underway. However, we also wish to emphasise that we will endeavour to keep disruption to motorists, pedestrians and residents to an absolute minimum.

Key Points

- Construction on the Dublin Road Bus Lane commenced on Wednesday October 1st, 2008 and will last for approximately 16 weeks (c. January 21st, 2009).
- The outbound bus lane is being developed from the Ffrench Roundabout (Moneenageisha Cross) to Duggan's Shop at the Renmore Road junction.
- To cater for cyclists this work will also involve the widening of the outbound traffic lane from Duggan's Shop at the Renmore Road junction to Galway Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT) at the Skerritt Roundabout.
- This initiative will improve bus shelters together with pedestrian and cyclist facilities along the Dublin Road. The work will also improve lighting, signage and landscaping along this route.

Traffic Management Information

- Two-way traffic will be maintained at all times during peak hours 08:00 to 10:00 and 16:00 to 18:00.
- Outside of peak hours a manned 'Stop and Go' system will occasionally be in operation. However, the roadway will generally be open to full two-way traffic.
- Short sections of the inbound bus lane between the Skerritt Roundabout at GMIT and the Renmore Road junction at Duggan's Shop will occasionally be closed to facilitate two-way traffic flow during the works.
- As the much needed Doughiska Road Improvement Scheme involving surfacing works, construction of bus lay bys and a taxi rank, development of footpaths and cyclepaths, lighting and landscaping is currently underway, people are advised that disruption is likely on this road.

Galway City Council wishes to thank people who use this route for their patience and cooperation while this work is underway. For its part, Galway City Council will endeavour to ensure that disruption is kept to a minimum and regular updates will be given on Galway Bay FM throughout the duration of the works. Also, Galway City Council wishes to highlight to all who are affected by this work that this short term traffic disruption will serve to significantly reduce traffic congestion along this route in the long term.

*For further information please contact:
Transportation and Infrastructure Department
Galway City Council
Tel: (091) 536400
Email: roads@galwaycity.ie*



A vast throng of citizens lining the funeral route to the New Cemetery in Bohermore pay their respects as the cortege pass – 14th August 1958.

KLM Air Crash 1958

A commemoration ceremony, organised by Galway City Council to mark the 50th Anniversary of those who died in the KLM air crash on the 14th August 1958 was held at the New Cemetery Bohermore, Galway on Tuesday, 12th August 2008 at 4.00pm.

Representatives from a number of institutions and organisations who helped in the operation to recover the victims were present for the commemoration, including a number of retired nurses and members of the Order of Malta, Red Cross, lifeboat, ambulance and fire brigade services.

Addressing the gathering, Bernd Surem of KLM paid tribute to the people of Galway.

"I must make mention of the wonderful assistance and co-operation so freely given by the people of Galway in this whole tragic affair. Their generous effort has made the work of the accident crew so very much easier and it is difficult to mention the names of individuals from the town where virtually everyone was worthy of mention,"

In a re-enactment of the burial ceremony 50 years ago, representatives from six religious

denominations recited short prayers at yesterday's service, followed by a wreath laying service on the mass grave of the unidentified victims and on the grave of baby Bernadette de Kock Van Leeuwen, which lies nearby.

Dutch ambassador to Ireland Robert Engels thanked the city council for organising the commemoration.

History of KLM Air Crash - August 14th 1958

'It was the funeral procession of victims of the air disaster over the Atlantic on Thursday of last week, a disaster in which 99 persons lost their lives. Of the 91 passengers and crew of eight, the total complement of a KLM plane that went to destruction in circumstances that may never be fully learned, only 34 bodies were recovered; non of the crew members was

among them' *Connacht Tribune*, Aug 23rd, 1958.

The KLM air crash disaster happened on August 14th 1958, 100 miles off the Conemara coast with 91 passengers and a crew of 8 all losing their lives. The KLM flight 'Hugo de Groot' departed from Shannon at 4am on Thursday August 14th 1958 and some hours after radio contact with the plane had been lost, the alarm was raised and sea and air rescue services went into action.

The RAF dispatched 3 Shackleton aircraft to the estimated position of the crash, about 90 miles west of Slyne Head. Shortly after mid-day on Thursday, wreckage and bodies were sighted and all ships in the areas were requested to proceed to the area. The first vessel to arrive was the Lorient Trawler 'General Leclerc'



A lone piper plays at the KLM Commemoration Ceremony at Bohermore Cemetery.

By Friday morning thirty-four bodies had been recovered, 9 male, 25 female. On 6.30 on Friday afternoon the first ship sailed slowly into the Dun Aengus dock watched by a huge silent crowd. Only 12 of the 34 bodies could be positively identified prior to the funeral which was held on August 19th 1958. The remains of eleven of these were flown back to their native countries. One of the bodies was that of a 14-month-old infant who lost her parents in the crash. The baby girl was buried in a separate grave close this spot where the unidentified remains of the crash victims lie. The infant's Grandmother and Uncle attended the burial and they expressed their appreciation of the sympathy shown by the people of Galway and that the infants' relatives would remember it all their lives.

The bodies were taken ashore by members of the Galway Units of the Red Cross and Order of Malta aided by members of the fire brigade and Civil Defence Corps. The remains were taken to the Regional Hospital by a fleet of ambulances and the Civil Defence Mobile Unit. All through the night, Dutch and Irish doctors carried out post mortem examinations.

The religious services of 6 denominations were conducted at Galway Regional Hospital before the funeral of the victims. All business closed down on the funeral route as the cortege, the largest ever seen in the city, passed through the silent sympathy of a vast throng of citizens



Above: Three wreaths placed at the commemorative plaque for the victims of the 1958 'Hugo de Groot' KLM Air crash disaster.

lining the funeral route to the New Cemetery in Bohermore where the unidentified remains are interred just inside the cemetery gates on the left.

Galway Corporation adjourned their meeting as a mark of respect to the relatives of the victims.

An inquest into the KLM air disaster was held in the Great Southern Ballroom and the most important evidence offered at the inquest was that of Dr. J D. Kennedy, Pathologist Regional Hospital, and Mr. J. Geoghan, Air Traffic Controller, Shannon. A verdict of death from multiple injuries, fractures and haemorrhages, due to violent impact, there being no evidence to show the cause of the impact was returned. The hearing lasted over 5 hours, during which eleven witnesses gave evidence and was attended by senior officials of KLM, the Netherlands Government, the Irish Government, Gardaí and local public officials.

The inquest was reported throughout the world by the major news agencies, the radio and newspapers.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha. - Suaimhneas síoraí do na mairbh go léir.

For further Information: Galway City Council, Corporate Services 091 536597

Renmore & Claddagh Communities Collect Awards at Pride of Place Awards Ceremony



From Left: City Manager Joe MacGrath, Eamonn O'Regan & Michael Duffy, Renmore Residents Association, Ann Campbell & Tom Cox, Claddagh Residents Association, Mary O'Leary, Galway City Council & Mayor of Galway City Cllr. Pádraig Conneely

Renmore Residents Association & Claddagh Residents Association pictured with Waterford Crystal Vases after winning in the Pride of Place Awards 2008. The Awards recognises and celebrates the vital contributions that community partnerships make to society.

For further Information, Galway City Council Environment Department 091 536595



Galway City Council launches website **www.eGalway.Biz** & encourages businesses to go online

Above: City Manager Joe MacGrath and Mayor Cllr. Pádraig Conneely exploring the new www.eGalway.Biz website developed by Galway City Council to encourage the entrepreneurs and businesses of Galway to secure an online presence.

Below: A puzzled Diarmuid de Faite aka Pádraic Ó Conaire pictured with Dr Chris Coughlan Chairman eGalway Group, Mayor Cllr. Pádraig Conneely & Mary Clarke Galway City Council ICT Department accessing free Wifi in Eyre Square.



The Mayor of Galway City, Cllr. Pádraig Conneely, officially launched Galway City Council's new www.eGalway. Biz web portal in City Hall recently where a number of laptops were available featuring the new website. The aim of this web portal is to encourage the people and businesses of Galway to get online and embrace all that broadband and the Internet have to offer.

The website will simplify the e-launch process for businesses and will empower entrepreneurs with the basic tools, information and resources necessary to launch a product or service on the World Wide Web.

www.eGalway.Biz is a website developed by Galway City Council to encourage the people and businesses of Galway to secure an online presence and benefit from all that broadband and the Internet have to offer. The development of the website is an initiative supported by the eGalway Group and the Galway City Development Board.

With broadband now more readily accessible than ever throughout Galway, businesses and entrepreneurs, who are currently lacking the benefit of an online presence can now log onto www.eGalway.Biz and apply for a simple functional personalised website through eGalway.Biz

Any business or service whose details are not returned through the map search may at any time input their details, which will then be visible to all site users.

All users may tailor the homepage to suit their preferences and needs, offering a one stop shop for all types of information such as RSS feeds, news headlines, weather, multi web searches, recruitment along with a Google map that will pinpoint the location of your business allowing other businesses access information on your services or products online.

Commenting on the launch of the web portal City Manager Joe MacGrath said

"The site will provide a convenient starting point for either the newcomer to the Internet, or those experienced in web-technologies. The aim of the site is to showcase the many uses of broadband and the web, from business benefits to research, online banking to shopping, and from news to entertainment. The availability of this one stop shop to businesses in Galway is a testament to the work of Galway City Council's ICT Department in the time, expertise and dedication that they have spent on developing this skillful initiative"

Some of the features of the new site include:

- Access to online services in Galway through the map-based search or the Quick Links

section.

- Personalizable homepage allowing the user to tailor the page according to their preferences.
- Customizable web-parts including: a multi-engine search feature, RSS feeds, and various online services from one convenient location.
- Free three-page website offered to Galway businesses and services that do not already have an existing website.

Dr.Chris Coughlan, Chairman eGalway Group congratulated the work of Galway City Council's ICT Department stating

'The new site fully supports the aim of the eGalway Group in promoting the use of Broadband in all areas across Galway from a business, community, cultural, entertainment and tourism perspective. In the medium term, initiatives such as the launch of the www.eGalway.Biz website will ensure that Galway features as a leading-edge and competitive e-region'

Further Information: Galway City Council, ICT Department 091 536575

Galway City Writer in Residence

Michael O'Loughlin was born in Dublin in 1958 and educated at TCD. After co-founding Raven Arts Press in the 1970s he lived for many years in Spain and the Netherlands before returning to Ireland in recent years. His most recent book of poetry called *Another Nation: New and Selected Poems* was published by New Island Books./Arc.



Michael O'Loughlin was born in Dublin in 1958 and educated at TCD. After co-founding Raven Arts Press in the 1970s he lived for many years in Spain and the Netherlands before returning to Ireland in recent years.

Michael O' Loughlin is currently Galway City Writer in Residence and has just edited *Galway: City of Strangers*, a collection of writing by immigrants in Galway which was favourable review in many newspapers including the Galway Advertiser, The Connacht Sentinel, The Tuam Herald and Metro Éireann, Ireland's multicultural weekly. A programme devoted to it in the Spectrum series was broadcast on RTÉ 1 in July of this year.

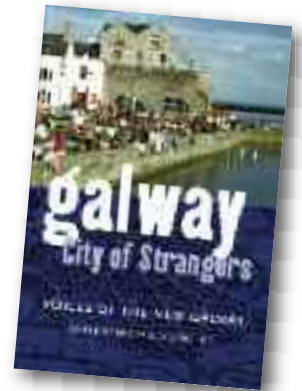
Michael is vastly experienced in Irish and international poetry making and publishing and he is a film writer of note. He knows well the west of Ireland and its writers.

Michael's writer's workshops have been continuing in Ballybane library every Friday at 11am. The group continues to grow in confidence and skills. Michael also works on the

other side of the city with the Westside Library on literary community development programming.

In addition Michael has been giving advice and recommendations to a substantial number of Galway citizens in relation to their poetry manuscripts allowing him to link with the city's creative population.

Michael O'Loughlin is Writer in Residence for Galway City and County. His anthology of writing from New Galwegians, *Galway: City of Strangers*, is published by the Arts Office, Galway City Council.



Pay-by-Weight Waste Collection Service

- Covering ALL of Galway City
- Flexible Payment Options
- By recycling more, it will cost you and the environment less!

Galway City Council operates a 3-bin system of waste collection for householders; a green bin is provided for dry recyclables, a brown bin for food & garden waste and a grey bin for any other waste.

How do I sign up?

Just visit the Galway City Council website on www.galwaycity.ie and fill out an application form requesting wheelie bins or you can call the Environment Section on 091 536595 and request a form.

Flexible payment Options - cash, direct debit, bank giro, cheque, money order, bank draft, or online at www.galwaycity.ie

For Christmas collection schedule, please see www.galwaycity.ie and local media.

Did you know?

Tax relief is given at the standard rate of 20% on all local authority charges, such as bin charges, This relief is granted to those who pay their service charges in full and on time in the previous calendar year.

For further Information: Galway City Council Environment Department 091 536595

Paying your bills made easy with Galway City Council

Parking & Bin Charges can now be paid by
Direct Debit or Online at www.galwaycity.ie

mabs Helpline
1890 283438

Money Advice and Budgeting Service (Ireland)

Experiencing Financial difficulties ?

Problems paying off Debts ?

Need Advice on Money Management

(9 a.m - 8 p.m. Monday to Friday)

The MABS Helpline is staffed by Helpline Advisers who can assist you deal with your debt problems by:

- Listening to you in a caring and non-judgemental way
- Helping you assess the extent and true nature of your debts
- Helping you explore your options
- Providing you with the information you need to deal with your debts
- Providing relevant self-help materials
- Giving you ongoing support over the phone, as you tackle your debt problems
- The service is non-judgemental, confidential and independent
- The only cost to you is a 1890 call. Once you make the first call, the adviser can call you back if necessary
- Advisers are available 9 a.m - 8 p.m. Monday to Friday
- Outside these times, you can leave a message and an adviser will get back to you as soon as possible
- You can also contact the Helpline by e-mail: helpline@mabs.ie

Loans, Rents, Rates and Other Charges can be paid by:

- Direct Debit (form available from Accounts Receivable Office at 091-536438)
- In Cash by going to the Cash Office in City Hall (Mon - Fri, from 9.00am - 4.00pm)
- By Cheque made payable to Galway City Council quoting the Refuse Account Number.
- Postal Order made payable to Galway City Council
- By Credit/Laser cards by phoning 091 536437 or 536439 (Mon - Fri, from 9.00am to 5.00pm)
- By Bank Giro payable at any bank

Galway City Council Launches Planning Documents Online

The new online planning systems allows anyone with access to the internet to view details of planning applications and associated documents, such as application forms, drawings and decision notices via www.galwaycity.ie

- Majority of planning applications now being validated on site either on the day of lodgement or within 24 hours of same.
- When enquiring on a Planning Application, there is a new option available on the website to 'View Related Documents'. The online user can choose to browse either the Correspondence File, or the Drawings & Maps associated with valid Planning Applications.

If you would like to see what has been achieved so far, please visit the following link:

<http://www.galwaycity.ie/AllServices/Planning/OnlinePlanningEnquirySystem/>

For Further Information: Galway City Council Planning Department 091 536507

